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Bangalore Mirror

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Residents of Basavanagudi approach police after black and yellow spots creep up all over locality due to poor management of groundnut fair that has been stretching on for days now

UNFAIR PLAY

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As Bengaluru's age-old Kadlekai Parishe is approaching its tail end, Basavanagudi's streets are stinking. While vendors have started wrapping up their stalls, what is left behind is uncountable yellow and black spots in the area, making life of residents difficult.

Some say the unhygienic condition of the streets has led to the spread of infections as more and more residents are falling ill.

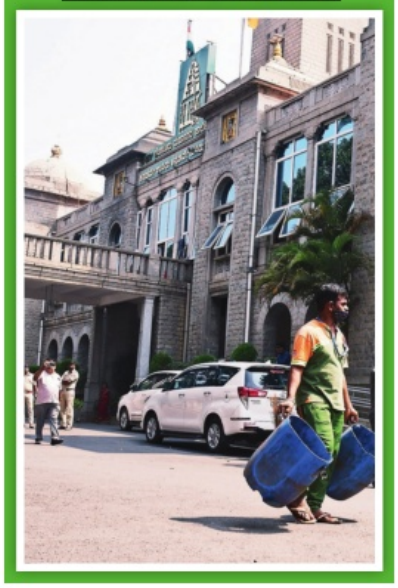
"All streets around the venue are in a terrible shape. Open urination and garbage strewn around have become the order of the day. We are unable to step out of our houses due to the prevailing unhygienic condition of our streets. Many residents have developed cough

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

CITY / PAGE 4

POLL PUSH

Citizens skeptic about BBMP's move of appointing nodal officers; council election awaited



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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Laugh out loud

Prepare for a fantastic time filled with laughter and entertainment from a stellar lineup of award-winning clowns. Enjoy a theatre show with 25 clowns from 10 countries with 120 minutes of non-stop laughter, comedy, juggling, and music at the International Clown Festival. Enjoy interactive performances, engaging workshops, and a variety of activities designed to delight audiences of all ages. The festival is curated and produced by Martin Flubber D'Souza, an award-winning international clown. **Where: Dr BR Ambedkar Bhawan, Vasanth Nagar**
When: November 29 to December 1, 11 am, 3 pm, and 7 pm

02 Groove to music

Dance your hearts out at 'Euphoria Season 2' as, for the first time, the fest exclusive to students opens its gates to the public as well, inviting music enthusiasts to join the event. The event, offering an evening of music, lights, entertainment, and more, boasts a stellar lineup featuring high-octane performances by renowned DJs Ujwal and Trement, along with a spellbinding live act by the celebrity singer KS Harisankar.
Where: Koshys Group of Institutions, Mitganahalli
When: November 29, 4 pm to 9 pm

03 Jazz-bansuri fusion

Spend an unforgettable evening with the Guillaume Barraud Quartet, performing live at Windmills. This internationally acclaimed quartet, led by French bansuri flautist Guillaume Barraud, delivers a spellbinding fusion of contemporary jazz, progressive rock, pop, and Indian music. Their latest project, Tales of the Bamboo Reed, highlights the bansuri's evocative versatility, blending serpentine melodies with edgy guitar riffs and groovy rhythms. This performance is a must-attend for music enthusiasts seeking innovative jazz infused with global influences. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield**
When: November 29 & 30, 9:30 pm onwards

Things are getting super busy at B'luru international airport

Kempegowda International Airport records 24.3% rise in October 2024, serving 4.8 lakh international passengers as compared to 3.9 lakh last October: Data

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The KIA's capacity expansion & modernisation are crucial in maintaining high service standards (file photo of KIA)

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has now secured the third spot among India's busiest airports, marking a significant milestone. Previously, the airport held the third position for domestic traffic but lagged behind Chennai and Kochi in terms of international operations.

However, recent statistics indicate that Bengaluru has regained its top-three standing for international flights in October 2024. According to the Airports Authority of India (AAI), Bengaluru's international passenger traffic saw a remarkable 24.3 per cent increase in October 2024, handling 4,89,871 passengers, up from 3,94,171 passengers in the same month the previous year. Meanwhile, Chennai Airport, which recorded 4,61,658 international passengers in October 2023, saw a decline to 4,53,134 in October 2024. Kochi Airport experienced growth in international traffic, increasing from 3,87,544 passengers in October 2023 to 4,11,293 in October 2024.

The overall rankings for international travel show Delhi at the top with 1.75 million passengers, followed by Mumbai at 1.25 million. Bengaluru's growth places it firmly in third position, while Chennai, Kochi, and Hyderabad round out the top six airports for international passengers. This trend is reflective of the broader surge in international air travel across India. Between April and October 2024, international passenger traffic saw an overall increase of 21 per cent, with Bengaluru emerging as a key player in this growth.

City's stand in aviation sector

According to a civil aviation expert, Bengaluru's economic expansion, particularly in the tech and business sectors, has fuelled a significant rise in both domestic and international travel. With its strategic geographic location, Bengaluru serves as a vital connector between India and global markets, making it a preferred gateway for international passengers. "The 24.3 per cent year-on-year increase in international passenger numbers in October 2024, alongside consistent growth in domestic traffic, highlights the city's strengthening position in the aviation sector. What sets Bengaluru apart is its ability to balance its rapid growth in passenger numbers with continued investments in infrastructure and connectivity. The Kempegowda International Airport's capacity expansion and modernisation are crucial in managing this demand and maintaining high service standards."

Robust growth in domestic traffic

In terms of domestic passenger traffic, Bengaluru also displayed robust growth. With a 16 per cent increase in domestic passengers in October 2024, KIA handled 28.7 million passengers in total, securing its third-place ranking among domestic airports.

According to AAI data, Delhi and Mumbai remain the dominant players in domestic air travel, with Delhi handling 46.06 million passengers and Mumbai following closely with 32.1 million passengers. Bengaluru continues to outperform other major cities such as Hyderabad (Rank 4, 18.8 M passengers), Kolkata, and Chennai (Rank 6, 13.1 M passengers), reinforcing its status as a major aviation centre in India.

"Bengaluru's consistent rise in both domestic and international passenger traffic underscores the city's increasing significance in India's aviation sector. The city's strategic location, rapid economic growth, and prominence as a tech capital have been pivotal in driving the demand for air travel, contributing to the airport's impressive performance. Its upward trajectory not only reflects the city's economic vitality but also its strategic importance in the global travel network," added another civil aviation expert.

City school hops on to bamboo bicycles

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A city school has introduced bamboo bicycles as part of its efforts to promote sustainability and eco-friendly living. This unique step is part of the "Bamboo 4 Bangalore" programme, which aims to showcase the potential of bamboo in various applications. The Green School Bangalore (TGSB), located in Varthur, has commissioned six bicycles made entirely of bamboo, demonstrating the material's durability and versatility. "Bamboo has great tensile strength, and bamboo bicycles can last for 20 to 30 years. As India's first zero-carbon school, we took this eco-friendly initiative to explore the feasibility of bamboo," said Usha Iyer, Founder and Principal, TGSB.

Moreover, as part of the initiative, there will be a bamboo exhibition on Friday featuring innovative products such as construction materials, textiles, furniture, paper, and home décor items. Visitors can see bamboo's application in environmental preservation, architecture, and fashion. Sculptures, crafts, and books about bamboo's uses will further highlight its versatility.

The summit aims to boost bamboo cultivation in Bengaluru and highlight its applications in daily life, from furniture and household items to ecological restoration projects. Participants, including students and parents, will receive bamboo plants. The hands-on initiative is said to encourage community involvement in creating greener spaces and addressing environmental challenges.

Through panel discussions, bamboo conservationists, product manufacturers, and experts will share insights into sustainable practices and the growth potential of the bamboo industry. Experts will speak on the importance of bamboo cultivation in urban areas

like Bengaluru and its role in groundwater recharge, soil moisture retention, and reviving local water cycles. "Bamboo is a sustainable resource for Bengaluru's water scarcity. Its rapid growth and deep roots efficiently recharge groundwater, retain moisture, and help revive the local water cycle. It supports biodiversity by providing habitats for various species and stabilising ecosystems," Iyer explained.

Meanwhile, experts have noted that bamboo's fast growth, ability to combat soil erosion, and capacity to support biodiversity make it an invaluable resource for both urban and rural settings.

HC notes Darshan's medical certificates show no surgery impediment

The Karnataka High Court made oral observations on Thursday regarding medical certificates submitted by Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa. The Court noted that the submitted certificates did not indicate any health-related impediments to the spinal surgery, for which he received interim bail on October 30 in the Renukaswamy Murder case. Justice S Vishwajith Shetty, presiding over a single judge bench that previously granted six weeks interim bail to the actor, was considering his regular bail application. When questioned about the treatment status, Senior Advocate CV Nagesh indicated that fluctuating blood pressure was preventing the surgery. He stated that medical professionals would determine the timing, and he could not specify when the procedure would take place.

With Darshan's interim bail set to conclude in December second week, his legal representative challenged the credibility of eyewitness accounts. The counsel highlighted that despite the witness being known to police since June 9, the statement was only recorded on June 20, demanding an explanation for this delay. The defence cited legal precedents from various courts to support their argument that delayed witness statement recording could justify bail consideration. **–BMB**

BM Food & Night Life

5 easy ways to reduce food waste

Discarding food that could have been eaten is about more than just a waste of money; this unused food rots in landfills and produces methane gas, contributing to climate change. And then, of course, wasting food in a world where many are starving is an ethical concern. Here are five easy ways to reduce food waste, starting in your kitchen:

Buy what you need: Unless you know how you are going to store or preserve food, don't buy what you cannot reasonably finish. Buying fresh more often is also better than shopping in bulk.

Store correctly: Improper storage leads to spoilage and consequent wastage. Use food bought previously before making fresh purchases. Keep your fridge and freezer well organised and follow the FIFO (First In, First Out) mantra.

Use leftovers smartly: Store them in clear containers so you can see what has to be finished first.

Use everything or compost: Reuse food scraps by composting them. If you would like to use the skin, rind and seeds of many fruits and vegetables, there's plenty of advice on the internet.

Avoid food expiry: Knowing what you have in your food cupboard is essential to avoid allowing food to expire.

–Femina Food

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Will nodal officers ease B'luru's civic troubles?

BBMP's recent move to address local civic issues sparks mixed reactions, with citizens stressing on better coordination, need for Council election

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Several civic issues have remained unaddressed in absence of ward committee meetings

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner announced the appointment of nodal officers for all wards in the city to redress citizens' grievances. The nodal officers were appointed two years after the ward committees became defunct. The ward committees existed in 2018 and worked as a bridge between citizens and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike officials. However, the ward committees became inactive during the State Assembly elections last year.

The latest decision to appoint nodal officers for all wards has received a mixed response from social activists and residential welfare associations. While some of them welcome the appointment of nodal officers, other residents and social activists have termed it as an eyewash, questioning its effectiveness. "I urge the authorities to conduct elections for the BBMP Council. I think the latest decision to appoint nodal officers is an indication of the postponement of elections to the BBMP Council. I am not sure whether the nodal officer has the power to solve the civic problems by coordinating with other government departments such as BWSSB (Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board) and Bescom (Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited). I think the government's decision is an ad hoc measure to redress civic grievances," said Kathyayini Chamaraj, Executive Trustee of CIVIC Bengaluru.

Stating that it is too early to assess the viability of appointing nodal officers, VP Krishna, Founder of KR Puram Constituency Association Welfare Federation said that he is yet to receive positive replies from the authorities on the unresolved complaints about civic issues such as potholes, shortage of drinking water, and mounting garbage. "The appointment of nodal officers should serve the purpose. The nodal officers should attend meetings and try their best to solve the problems. They should not be an additional burden on tax-payers," said VP Krishna.

Hoping for honest nodal officers, VK Srivatsa, Secretary of Change Makers of Kanakapura Road, remembered how a hard-working nodal officer for Gottigere ward used to solve the civic problems at the respective ward. "I think that not many people will attend meetings on Wednesdays because it is a working day. The authorities should have fixed Saturday for the meeting to enable more and more residents to attend the meeting and get their grievances redressed," said Srivatsa, adding that officers who are familiar with wards should be appointed as nodal officers.

> **"Nodal officer has to coordinate with other departments and put efforts to solve problems. Many civic issues are pending** – Pichandi V, resident

Shivakumar V, a social activist from Domlur, emphasised that nodal officers should focus on their duties as BBMP officials rather than acting on behalf of elected representatives or politicians. "I urge the nodal officer not to succumb to pressure from politicians," said Shivakumar.

Meanwhile, Pichandi V, a resident of HBR Layout, expressed scepticism about the nodal officers, citing the inaction of the officer appointed before the State Assembly elections in addressing pressing civic issues in the area. "The nodal officer has to coordinate with other departments and put efforts to solve the problems. Many civic problems, including sewage issues, are pending for quite a long time," said Pichandi.

Mechanised transfer stations to solve waste woes

The government has proposed setting up mechanised large transfer stations, which will eliminate the need for waste storage on streets by ensuring direct transport of waste to larger vehicles without touching the ground. On Thursday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated an Automated Waste Segregation Machine (AWS) at Chalavadipalya, located in the Chamarajpet division of Bengaluru. This facility aims to streamline waste management processes, reducing labour and capital intensity by automating waste segregation.

Challenges of manual waste handling

A BBMP official said, "The manual segregation process involved transporting waste to holding points on streets, where it was transferred by hand into secondary vehicles. This often resulted in waste spilling onto the ground, creating unhygienic conditions and contributing to the formation of black spots throughout the city. These black spots posed health risks, as leachate could drip onto roads."

Hence, to address these issues and make the city "litter-free," the government has proposed the installation of mechanised larger transfer stations. These stations will eliminate the need for waste storage on streets, ensuring that waste is directly transported to larger vehicles. The goal is to reduce leachate dripping, eliminate secondary transfer points, and improve the visual cleanliness of Bengaluru.

Funding and construction of transfer stations

The Government of Karnataka allocated Rs 40 crore to establish three transfer stations, each capable of handling 150 to 200 metric tons of waste per day. "These stations are designed to enhance public health standards and improve environmental quality by providing a more efficient waste collection and transportation system. The stations are being built in select locations across Bengaluru, with one already operational in Ejipura and another being inaugurated in Chalavadipalya. The third station in HBR Layout is expected to be completed by January 2025. The Chalavadipalya transfer station, inaugurated on Thursday offers several benefits aimed at improving city's waste management. With a capacity to handle 150–200 tons of waste daily, the station effectively eliminates black spots and prevents waste from accumulating on streets, thereby enhancing the city's cleanliness. By providing dedicated spaces for waste transfer, the station boosts the efficiency of waste collection and increases the waste-carrying capacity of containers. The system incorporates RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) scanning, which tracks waste data, ensuring accountability and streamlining waste management practices.

— BMB

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Drain blockage
Hampi Nagar

Two buildings near Hampi Nagar were built over a stormwater drain under Attiguppe Metro Station, with no action taken despite reports to authorities.

Road risks
Vasanth Nagar

Exposed wires and potholes in Vasanth Nagar pose pedestrian hazards. Proper cementing and road maintenance are needed to prevent accidents.

Incomplete work
Manorayanapalya

The newly asphalted road on Manorayanapalya 9th Cross was dug up for repairs but remains unfinished, worsening its accident-prone state.

BMTC cracks down on ticketless travel

Intensified checks over 3 months result in fines for 8,891 ticketless passengers, 1,178 for misusing women's seats, and 5,268 conductors facing disciplinary action

Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) staff conducted intensified checks over three months, penalising 10,069 passengers and collecting 19,13,830 in fines from 57,219 trips.

In a sweeping operation during August, September, and October, BMTC's staff intensified inspections across 57,219 trips. The results have been significant: 8,891 passengers were caught travelling without tickets, leading to the collection of 17,96,030 in penalties. Additionally, 5,268 conductors faced disciplinary action for neglecting their duties.

5,268 conductors disciplined for negligence

This crackdown extended beyond ticketless travel. To address the persistent issue of male passengers occupying seats reserved for women, inspectors penalised 1,178 offenders. These violators paid a cumulative fine of 1,17,800, strictly in line with Karnataka Motor Vehicles (KMV) Rules 94, read with Section 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

BMTC officials have urged passengers to comply with regulations by purchasing valid tickets or passes—be it daily, weekly, or monthly. "This simple step will help avoid levy of penalty and embarrassment while contributing to better services for all commuters,"

The corporation reiterated its appeal to male passengers to respect reserved seating for women, ensuring comfort for female commuters. **–Sanjana CS**

Spa worker found dead at her home

A 24-year-old woman from New Delhi, identified as Sonia, was found dead in her rented room in Bagalagunte police station limits. Sonia, who had moved to Bengaluru a month-and-a-half ago, was working at the Elegance Spa on 8th Mile.

The incident came to light on Thursday when the spa owner raised an alarm after Sonia failed to report to work. Concerned, he visited her residence but received no response despite repeated knocks. They contacted the police, who broke down the door and found Sonia's body.

Police officials explained that no suicide note was found at the scene. Police officials have seized her mobile phone. Sonia's parents, who reside in New Delhi, have been informed and are on their way to Bengaluru to claim their daughter's body. Bagalgunte police have registered a case and continue to collect evidence.

BM Education

Advertorial Promotional Feature

CBSE Class X, XII board exams set to start February 15

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has officially released the schedule for the Class X and XII board examinations for the academic year 2025. The exams will begin on February 15, 2025, and the complete date sheet has been made available on the CBSE's official website. As per the schedule, the exams will commence at 10:30 am on all days. In an official statement, the CBSE explained that while preparing the date sheet, they have taken great care to ensure that students have enough time between exams for subjects typically chosen together. This approach aims to reduce stress and allow students to manage their preparation more efficiently. "A sufficient gap has been given between two subjects generally offered by a student in both classes," the CBSE said.

For Class X students, the exams will begin on February 15 and continue until March 18, 2025. Key exam dates include the Science exam on February 20 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm and the Social Science exam (Code 087) on February 25. Mathematics is scheduled for March 10, and the Hindi exam will take place on February 28. Meanwhile, for Class XII students, the exams will also commence on February 15 and conclude on April 4, 2025. Notable subjects and their exam dates include Physics on February 21, Business Studies on February 22, Chemistry on February 27, and Geography on February 24. Additionally, the Mass Media Studies exam is set for March 7.

The CBSE has emphasised the careful planning involved in the preparation of the date sheet, ensuring that no two exams of subjects chosen by a student fall on the same day. The board also mentioned that more than 40,000 subject combinations were considered to avoid scheduling conflicts. For the first time, the CBSE has released the date sheet almost three months in advance, giving students ample time to prepare. "This year's release is 23 days earlier than 2024, which has been made possible due to the timely submission of the List of Candidates (LOC) by schools," the CBSE noted. The early release of the date sheet offers several advantages. Students can start their preparations earlier, which could help alleviate stress and enhance their performance. Teachers and families will also benefit by having more time to plan schedules, including summer vacations and evaluation duties, without disrupting other academic commitments. Furthermore, schools serving as exam centres will have enough time to plan and organise their activities around the exams.

Class X exams begin on Feb 15 and end on Mar 18, while Class XII exams start on Feb 15 and conclude on April 4

CBSE refutes claims of 15% syllabus reduction

In a separate development, the CBSE has denied reports suggesting a 15% reduction in the syllabus for the 2025 board exams for Classes X and XII. The board clarified that no such policy decision has been made. Reports had surfaced, quoting Vikas Kumar Agrawal, CBSE's regional officer, at a school principal's summit in Indore, stating that the syllabus for the 2025 exams would be reduced by 15%. However, the CBSE issued a statement dismissing these claims. "The CBSE would like to clarify that no such notice has been issued, nor have any changes been made to the evaluation system or examination policy," the statement read. The board further clarified that any updates regarding policy decisions would only be published on the official CBSE website or through authorised channels.

Live bait to capture leopard raises question on legality

Forest dept using a dog as bait to capture leopard in Nelamangala has brought back question on legality once again

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A leopard caught on the premises of ITI and C-DoT campus in Electronic City Phase-1 in a cage (file photo)

Karnataka Forest Department's (KFD) ongoing leopard-capturing operation in Nelamangala is in the spotlight once again for using live bait to lure a leopard that killed a woman in the area over a week ago. While the department has caught three leopards so far and is in the process of identifying the big cat involved in the incident through DNA analysis, all captures have been performed with a dog as bait.

Animal welfare workers and law practitioners say the practice of using live bait is cruel and against the spirit of provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA) 1960. "The forest department should resort to less vicious ways to catch the leopard. The dog being used as bait is not sedated and thus must be undergoing a lot of mental trauma and pain. This is not in line with the PCA. The department should reconsider this strategy," said Ramesh Belagere, a wildlife researcher at the Foundation of Ecology and Education Development.

City-based animal activists say the district SPCA (Society FOR THE Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) should intervene and ensure such cruel practices are stopped. "The district SPCA should send out a notice pointing out the illegality of this matter. The police should be roped in if the forest officials do not comply. The dog should be released at once," says Harini Raghavan, Citizens for Animal Birth Control. This is not the first instance that the department's decision to use live bait to catch a big cat has been criticised. KFD, in a leopard capture operation in the city in 2022, had used a puppy as bait.

> **"The forest department should resort to less vicious ways to catch the leopard. The department should reconsider this strategy.** –Belagere, researcher

According to KFD, the dog is being used only to attract leopards so the big cats can be trapped in cages. Sareena Sikkaligar, deputy conservator of forest, Bengaluru Rural told BM that the bait is kept in a secondary compartment and the leopard cannot reach the bait even after entering the cage.

"The operation is being done scientifically, and unless we use live bait, leopards would never enter the cage. Leopards are one of the apex predators and act on their hunting instinct. In the past, we have used fresh and stale meat to attract them, but the strategy has not worked. It is only the bait's crying sound that they create out of fear and panic that attracts leopards. The dog will not be killed in the process as it is kept in a different compartment inside the main cage," said Sikkaligar.

A representative of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) believed that dogs have the right to live and the mental trauma that the animal would have endured amounts to cruelty. "The trauma dogs used as bait for big cats endure would cause long-lasting psychological injury. Big cats who are captured simply because humans have encroached on their jungle homes and are jailed in cages also suffer. Those confined to cages for long begin to display signs of psychological deterioration, such as endless pacing. Dogs are not bait, and big cats belong free in the jungle. The solution to man-animal conflict is not imprisonment of wild animals—it is forest protection and adequate town planning," said Sachin Bangera, PETA.

Live bait as management practice: KFD

However, SK Malkhede, principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) and chief wildlife warden of Karnataka, has refuted the claims, saying using live bait as a management practice is not banned under the PCA.

"Section 11 of the Act bans confinement of animal or tying of an animal as a bait in a tiger or other sanctuary only when done for entertainment and would then amount to cruelty. The dog is being used as bait under management practice and solely for the best interest of human beings," said Malkhede.

Section 11 of PCA says that confining any animal, including tying of an animal as bait in a tiger or other sanctuary to make it an object of prey for any other animals, is a punishable offense when solely done to provide entertainment.

Animal lawyers criticise KFD's move

However, animal law experts and lawyers have criticised the department's interpretation. They say any law should not be interpreted literally, keeping aside its intent.

"One cannot take a portion of a law and interpret it independently. You have to understand the intent of lawmakers, which in the case of PCA is to prevent unnecessary pain and suffering of animals. The lawmakers, in 1960 (when PCA was constituted), could visualise and feel animals' pain and suffering. Unfortunately, the forest department is trying to read the act literally to sidestep it. The department has wildlife experts to advise and guide in such matters. They should use an alternative instead of subjecting an animal to mental torture and pain," said Shreya Paropkari, an advocate who practices

Speeding biker knocks down, kills pedestrian, flees

CRIME FILES

A pedestrian died in a hit-and-run accident on Thursday. According to Ravi M, an eye witness, a speeding two-wheeler rider going towards Shirke, collided with a pedestrian who was crossing the road around 4-6 am. The impact was severe, leaving the victim with head and body injuries. Onlookers, including Ravi and local resident Puttaswamy, rushed to aid the injured man, offering him water and helping him to the roadside.

However, the rider fled the scene. By around 8 am, Ravi learned that the victim had succumbed to his injuries near a steel shop, just opposite the bar. Authorities identified the deceased as Shivayogi L, aged 50-52 years. Now, Kengeri Police are on the hunt for the missing rider.

5 arrested in robbery

The police swooped down on five suspects involved in a midnight robbery and recovered Rs 11.3 lakh in cash. The operation also yielded seven high-end mobile phones worth Rs 6 lakh, along with a car and a bike used in the crime.

The case was filed after Shri Ram Prasad Pandit, 38, residing on the 4th floor of the City Union Bank Building on Siddaiah Road, reported the incident to Kalasipalya Police Station. According to his complaint, unknown individuals broke into his room in the early hours of November 19 and robbed Rs 15 lakh in cash and two mobile phones.

Group attacks student

A group of nine individuals attacked a second PUC student, Syed Ishan, with weapons as he was returning home after his evening tuition. The attack, which came to light late, left the victim injured and he was admitted to a local hospital.

According to the police, the incident began with a heated argument between Ishan and his friend, who also attends the same college. The disagreement escalated when the victim's friend's family called him, confronting him. During the phone call, Ishan reportedly used vulgar language, which provoked further tension. The accused then attacked him with a cricket bat when they later saw him. — BMB

IN BRIEF

LeT fugitive brought back

In a decisive breakthrough, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) brought back Salman Khan to India on Thursday. Salman Khan, a key Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) fugitive linked to the Bengaluru prison terror plot, was extradited from Rwanda. His return marks the 17th successful extradition or deportation of a terror suspect since 2020. Salman, implicated in the radicalisation and recruitment case within Bengaluru Central Prison, was apprehended in Kigali on November 27 with assistance from the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB), Interpol, and international law enforcement. He arrived in India on Thursday morning, following a red notice issued after a non-bailable warrant from the NIA Special Court, Bengaluru.

This extradition follows a string of similar successes. Earlier, the NIA secured the extradition of Khalistani terrorists Tarsem Singh Sandhu from the UAE and Bikramjit Singh from Austria. In October, Baljeet Singh, linked to a Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) plot, was deported from the UAE. Others, including Vikramjit Singh Brar and Ratheesh, faced deportations from the UAE and the Philippines in 2023 for various terror-related cases

The case taken over by the NIA on October 25, 2023, unveiled Salman's role in distributing explosives after radicalisation by T Naseer, a life convict in a terror case. Naseer orchestrated plans for prison escapes. — BMB

Traffic drive: 1,654 cases, ₹8.3 L in fines

The Bengaluru Traffic Police West Division conducted a special enforcement drive on Thursday, registering 1,654 cases under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, resulting in the collection of Rs 8,33,900 in fines. Among the violations, riding without a helmet accounted for the highest number of cases at 729, resulting in fines totalling Rs 3,51,500. This was followed by cases of driving against one-way/no entry, with 319 violations leading to fines of Rs 1,58,700, and other violations with 425 cases amounting to Rs 2,17,000 in fines. The special drive also penalised triple riding (30 cases), wrong parking (114 cases), footpath riding (15 cases), footpath parking (22 cases), and using mobile phones while driving (42 cases).

Quick FIR against driving on footpath

In a swift response to a public complaint, the Mahadevapura Traffic Police took action against an individual who was driving his car on the footpath near Hoodi, ITPL Road, on Thursday.

The incident occurred at 9.48 am, and a video and a picture were captured by a vigilant citizen who tagged the Bengaluru Traffic Police on X, demanding action.

The accused, identified as Srinivas (46) was traced, arrested, and his car was seized by the Mahadevapura Traffic Police. An FIR was filed for violating traffic laws and endangering pedestrian safety. — BMB

Brace for wet weekend, cyclone Fengal is en-route

City may receive light rain on Friday, heavy rain, thundershowers on Saturday: Met expert

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

A foggy morning in Bengaluru last week

While Thursday saw relatively clear skies, meteorologists are now forecasting a wet weekend due to an impending cyclone named Fengal. Studying the weather parameters, Dr N Puviarasan, a scientist at India Meteorological Department (IMD) Bengaluru, explained that the deep depression over the Southwest Bay of Bengal had been stationary for the past six hours.

He noted that on Thursday, the system was positioned near latitude 9.1°N and longitude 82.1°E, approximately 110 km east-northeast of Trincomalee and 310 km southeast of Nagapattinam. It is likely to make landfall between Karaikal and Mahabalipuram by Saturday morning as a deep depression, with wind speeds ranging from 50 to 60 km/h, gusting up to 70 km/h. There is also a possibility of the depression intensifying into a cyclonic storm with winds reaching 65-75 km/h, gusting to 85 km/h by Friday evening.

"As a result, Bengaluru is expected to experience light rain in isolated areas on Friday, with the intensity increasing to isolated heavy rain and thundershowers on Saturday. Rainfall will also extend to Ramanagara and surrounding districts, and on Sunday, light to moderate rain is expected in parts of South Interior Karnataka. Temperatures will hover around 26°C during the day and 17°C at night," he noted.

Further analysis by Namma Karnataka weather is suggesting that the circulation off the North Sri Lanka coast weakened on Wednesday but is likely to intensify again. The system's expected path includes landfall near Puducherry on Saturday evening, followed by further inland progression toward Dharmapuri by Sunday morning and Gundlupet by Sunday evening. It is anticipated to reach the Arabian Sea near Vadakara by Sunday midnight.

"This trajectory covers roughly 650 km from the east coast to the west in a span of 30 to 32 hours, though the exact timing and path may vary slightly. If this path holds, widespread rainfall is expected in districts such as Chamarajanagara, Mysuru, Mandya, Ramanagara, Bengaluru, Kolar, Hassan, and Kodagu over the weekend, with scattered rain in Tumakuru, Chikkamagaluru, and coastal regions," according to a weather update in Namma Karnataka on Platform X.

The post further noted that unlike Southwest Monsoon (SWM) circulations that typically bring heavy rainfall deeper inland, the North-East Monsoon (NEM) circulations often result in rainfall mainly within the first 120 to 140 km from the coast. "While the NEM system can occasionally deliver significant rainfall inland, local conditions—such as already saturated land and the presence of high-pressure areas (HPAs)—limit the extent of rainfall beyond coastal regions. SWM circulations, in contrast, can bring heavier rains up to 500 km inland due to favourable moisture conditions and less risk of dry air weakening the system," the update added.

HC rejects tribunal employee's petition

The Karnataka High Court has rejected a petition filed by a State Administrative Tribunal employee who challenged the Tribunal's order to withhold his two annual increments with cumulative effect. The charges against him included disobeying the Chairman's instructions and using discourteous language.

The division bench of Justices Krishna S Dixit and Justice CM Joshi dismissed S Purushothama's petition, stating that insubordination in public service is a serious issue that affects organisational hierarchy and administrative efficiency. The court ordered the petitioner to pay Rs 10,000 to the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority within six weeks.

The petitioner contested his deployment to the Belagavi Bench, claiming the Chairman lacked authority and no vacancy existed. However, citing section 13(1A) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, and Karnataka Administrative Tribunal Rules, 1992, the bench emphasised that the Chairman's role as 'the Conscience Keeper of the Tribunal' requires strict adherence to administrative orders by all staff members. The court confirmed that the petitioner's failure to comply with the deployment order constituted misconduct. –BMB

ADVERTORIAL

India Neurodiversity Summit 2024 -7th Edition

From Awareness to Action in Corporate Culture

From left: A group photo featuring the core team alongside corporate industry leaders; Rithvik Rajan, who is visually impaired and has a mild intellectual disability, performed a song; Keynote speaker, Merry Barua addressing the gathering

The inaugural India Neurodiversity Summit 2024 - 7th Edition promises to be a landmark gathering, igniting a new era of understanding, inclusion, and innovation within India's corporate and social landscapes. Presented by a distinguished consortium featuring SAP LABS India, JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Capgemini, Thomson Reuters, Nagarro, CognitiveBotics, Nasscom, Christ (Deemed to be University), and the Ishanya India Foundation, the summit aims to illuminate the transformative power of neurodiversity.

This year's theme, "Awareness to Action: Implementing Neurodiversity in Corporate Culture," transcends rhetoric, advocating for actionable strategies that weave neurodivergent strengths into the fabric of modern workplaces. A constellation of industry leaders, neurodiversity advocates, and subject matter experts will converge, offering a kaleidoscope of perspectives.

Among the anticipated highlights is a keynote from a global thought leader, sharing poignant insights into the evolving landscape of workplace inclusion. Merry Barua, founder of Action for Autism explained India has 60 crore working-age individuals, and around 6 million have autism. Yet, only about 55% of autistic individuals are employed, with just 7% in formal roles—most in NGOs, and only a few in corporate settings. Despite rights to education and workplace accommodations, acceptance remains low due to social stigma, behavioral challenges, and inadequate support systems.

While addressing the gathering Merry explained Autistic individuals often excel at rule-following and need understanding workplaces. Support systems are crucial, much like those for visible disabilities. Enhanced HR and teacher training can foster inclusivity, ensuring parents and society view neurodivergent individuals with empathy, respect, and empowerment, creating truly inclusive environments.

HR and teacher training programs are essential to foster a culture of true inclusivity. We aim to inspire students to embrace diversity and encourage parents and caregivers to shift their perspective—from focusing on their own challenges to understanding their neurodivergent child's experiences. If life is tough for neurotypical individuals, imagine the struggles faced by autistic individuals navigating a world that often doesn't understand them. Inclusivity is more than just participation; it's about ensuring everyone feels respected, valued, and empowered. True inclusion means creating environments where neurodivergent individuals are genuinely supported and their contributions fully recognised, says Merry.

Mugdha Kalra, Caregiver inclusion at workspace, explained that Around 80% of women leave their careers after their child is diagnosed with autism, often to provide full-time care. At this critical stage, caregivers need strong support systems—therapy, understanding employers, and family assistance—to ensure acceptance and inclusion are possible. Unfortunately, India still lags in providing government support for neurodivergent children and those with other disabilities. Our schools face a curriculum crisis, leading families to rely on costly therapies and remedial classes. Many schools claim to be inclusive but are merely integrated, meaning the child is present without tailored support. A well-supported caregiver can make a significant difference for the entire family.

Panel discussions explored best practices for inclusive recruitment, retention, and education of neurodivergent individuals. Higher Education Institutions including Christ (Deemed to be University), Ashoka University and Azim Premji University shared the importance of creating safe spaces within the education system and having empathy and understanding of diverse needs of each learner. The need to upskill neurodivergent individuals with new age tech and coding was highlighted by HashHack Code and Teachers Collective addressed the pressing issue of skilling teachers on inclusion while highlighting the importance of using Universal Design Learning principles catering to the needs of all learners. Industry leaders from Capgemini, Wells Fargo, Thomson Reuters, and others shared experiences and strategies for creating inclusive workplaces.

The event also showcased the talent of neurodivergent individuals, with a musical performance by Rithvik Rajan. The summit concluded with a call for greater awareness, acceptance, and support for neurodiversity, aiming to build a more inclusive future for all.

Groundnut fair stretches on, without facilities

and other respiratory issues," said Guru Prasad, a resident of Basavanagudi and secretary of the Heritage Basavanagudi Residents' Welfare Forum.

The Forum has now approached Bengaluru's Police Commissioner seeking relief. In a letter written to the Commissioner, residents have demanded that the festival should be stopped immediately.

"In the interest of residents and senior citizens of the area, we request you to give instructions to wrap up the festival immediately. People in the area are falling ill due to lack of measures to maintain hygiene. Residents are living in unhealthy environment. As official instruction should be given before it is too late," said the letter by Heritage Basavanagudi Residents' Welfare Forum.

Longer festival

Residents say the festival held every year to mark the first ground nut harvest used to be a one-day affair earlier. However, this time, it has been going on for nearly a week as vendors arrived earlier and seemingly will be leaving late after finishing off their stock.

"Earlier, Kadlekai would be held on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, but this year there is no end in sight and it has already been six days. The venue lacks basic facilities such as drinking water and waste disposal. Vendors are found urinating in the open on many streets surrounding the venue," said Prasad. While the festival has attracted more than 250 vendors and thousands of people visiting the venue, toilet facilities appear to be inadequate. The venue has only a few mobile toilets for vendors and visitors, leading to yellow spots.

"My house is nearly 100 metres away from the venue on Bull Temple Road. The extended duration of the festival along with lack of adequate toilet facilities has left the area in a mess. While BBMP is supposed to keep the area clean of garbage, streets around the venue are littered with discarded eatables. The whole area is reeking with an unbearable foul smell. Residents are unable to park their vehicles and are facing difficulties," said another local.

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I, Savitha Karakkat Satheesh ,W/o Aravind Pramod R/o Flat no.308, Block-2 Puja Navarathna Apts, Dodda kannalli Village, Sarjapur Main Road, Bangalore - 560035 have changed my name from Savitha Satheesh to Savitha Karakkat Satheesh for all future purposes.

I, VINAY KUMAR R/a No 22, B Street, Balappa Garden, Off Chick Bazar Road, Taskar Town, Bengaluru 560051. I have changed my name to VINAY KUMAR VIJAYA KUMAR Vide Affidavit dated on 28/11/2024 Sworn Before Notary S N Madhu Bangalore.

I Abdul Rahman Abdul Basheer S/O, Abdul Basheer K R/o No 9 Ground Floor 2nd Main Shampura New Extension Near Bangalore One K B Sandra Bangalore Karnataka - 560045 have changed my name to Abdul Rahman.

I, Ronak Mehta Gyanesh S/o Gyanesh Mehta R/o Flat No.203 Ashish Pride Apartment, N R Colony, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru 560004 have changed my name to Ronak Mehta Affidavit Dt.28/11/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Merva Venkateswaralu Keerthana d/o M Venkateswaralu R/o No 56, 5th cross, Saraswathi Nagar, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560048, Karnataka have changed my name to Meruva V Keerthana.

I Vimukthanjali Puttamadaiah Mahadev W/O, Avinash Ananthu Vasishta R/o No 60 1st Main Road Judicial Officers Layout R M V 2nd Stage 560094 have changed my name to Vimukthanjali Avinash.

I, Jemima Drothy Lall D/o Beniah S Lall B-6, Sec H,1st floor, Aarohi Complex,Purania ,Aliganj, Lucknow 226024, have changed name to Jemimaa Dorothy Lall for all purposes.

I, SHEEBA SAMUEL SAMUEL, R/at No.85, 17th Cross, 8th Main road, Muthyal Nagar, Mathikere, Bangalore-560054 have changed my name to SHEEBA SAMUEL, affidavit dated: 26.11.2024 before notary V. Anjanappa, Bangalore.

I, Sanjukta Baidik W/o Shantanu Sujit Chakravorty R/o No.38, Curley street, Richmond town, Bengaluru 560025 have changed my name to Sanjukta Chakravorty Affidavit Dt.28/11/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Anant Upendrabhai Joshi S/o Upendra Mangalbhai Joshi R/o Villa 82, Urban Serenity, Sarjapur Bagalur Road, Sarjapura, Bengaluru - 562125 have changed my minor child's name from Rudra to Rudra Anant Joshi

I Arjun Krshnappa S/O, Krishnappa.a R/o N0-73,fround Floor,2nd Main, Jalahalli Village, Bengaluru-560013 have changed my name to Arjun Krishnappa.

I, Anant Upendrabhai Joshi S/o Upendra Mangalbhai Joshi R/o Villa 82, Urban Serenity, Sarjapur Bagalur Road, Sarjapura, Bengaluru - 562125 have changed my minor child's name from Jagrav to Jagrav Anant Joshi

I Done Boseco Raja S/O, Joseph A R/o #e26, 8th Main Kalanagar Main Road, Kg Halli, Bangalore 560015 have changed my name to Donbasco Raja J.

I Susheela Shiralikar D/O, Govinda.s R/o N0-9,30,t E,3rd Floor,s L V Pearl, kenchanahalli, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098 have changed my name to Susheela Govinda Shiralikar.

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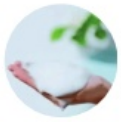
I, G Ganesh s/o m govindhraj no 19/1 15th main 2nd cross kp agrahara magadi road Bangalore 560023 I have lost my documents and valuable securities power of attorney (axis bank) somewhere vijayangar , Bangalore on dated 21/12/2018. If anybody found kindly return to the aforementioned address or nearest police station.

GALLERIA

HEALTH TIP: If your day is too jam-packed, a few breathing exercises will help your body calm down



If you have combination skin, use a gentle cleanser to wash your face in the mornings and at night

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Parents can also benefit from setting screen time boundaries for themselves

Screen effect

In many households, screens are part of daily life – from work to entertainment.

But for parents, setting boundaries around screens isn't just about kids; it's also about modelling a balanced approach to screen use. Our research shows parents who spend excessive time on screens may unconsciously encourage similar habits in their children.

Excessive screen time in young children is linked to developmental delays in communication and problem-solving. One explanation is that screen time displaces parent–child interactions that are crucial for development. This is often framed as the child's screen time displacing these interactions.

But when parents use their smartphones a lot, this is associated with lower responsiveness and attention towards their children, particularly when this screen time occurs during routines such as meal time.

Parents don't need to ban screens to be more present with their kids. If parents watch age-appropriate TV with their kids, this has a positive effect on literacy – possibly due to conversations about the content of the show.

There is a lot parents can do to foster healthier screen habits in the family through positive role-modelling and thoughtful management.

Managing screen time is also important for a parent's own physical and mental health.

The health impact of sedentary screen time

Screen time often means sitting for long stretches, which can be bad for our physical and mental health.

Our work has shown prolonged periods of sitting can impair blood sugar regulation, blood pressure, brain blood flow and cognitive function.

But that doesn't mean you should feel guilty every time you retire to the couch for some well-deserved Netflix.

Some of these effects can be eliminated by either exercising before a prolonged bout of sitting or breaking up sitting every 30 minutes with some light activity – ideally both.

You don't even need to pause the TV to fit in these activity breaks. One study found that breaking up a sedentary evening of watching TV every 30 minutes with short bursts of bodyweight exercise (squats, calf raises and hip extensions) increased sleep duration by 30 minutes. This is important because sleep boosts your immune system, which helps maintain good physical and mental health.

While exercise and sleep helps, screen content also matters. Mentally passive screen use – such as scrolling through social media – has been linked to higher risks of depression and even dementia, whereas mentally active screen use (problem-solving and work tasks) may actually protect you.

While almost two-thirds of parents think they can reduce their sedentary screen time, for the remaining third, swapping passive for mentally active screen time is another option.

Our eyes and brain need a break too

Our eyes and minds aren't designed for constant screen time. Staring at a screen for too long can give us dry eyes, headaches and blurred vision – all symptoms of eye strain.

Screens also affect our brains. Research has found excessive and disordered screen use is linked to deficits in cognitive function. Our brains need breaks to consolidate information and recharge. Without regular breaks, we risk cognitive burnout, which makes it harder to stay productive, focus and potentially even manage screen time.

What can we do?

Guidelines recommend adults limit recreational sedentary screen time. But the message to simply "limit your screen time" may be unhelpful to many, especially when screens are embedded into modern life.

Here are some other ways to reduce the negative consequences of excessive screen time:

--avoid digital eye strain. Follow the 20-20-20 rule. Every 20 minutes, give your eyes a break by looking at something 20 feet (6 metres) away for 20 seconds

--move regularly. Exercise regularly and break up sedentary screen time with activity every 30 minutes for metabolic and cognitive benefits

--limit passive screen time. Try swapping some passive screen activities (doom scrolling) for mentally engaging ones, such as puzzles, creative projects or educational content

--modelling balanced screen use for kids. This might mean viewing educational shows together and discussing them.

Finally, we can't solely blame a lack of self-control for poor management of screen time. The content on our screens is designed to be addictive for parents and kids.

One parent reported that their child would avoid going to the toilet to the point of wetting themselves when playing the online game Roblox, because they didn't want their character to die.

Many parents can relate – albeit with better bladder control. We have all experienced doom scrolling where time seems to disappear, and we can't even recall what we saw.

If you are at risk of doom scrolling right now, one idea is to listen to some tips on how to stop. Consider going for a walk and giving yourself a break. You'll feel better for it.

(By Michael Wheeler, University of Melbourne; David Dunstan, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute; Lauren Arundell, Mats Hallgren, and Paddy Dempsey, Deakin University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

New study reveals shared 'genetic architecture' between human language and musical rhythm

A new study has revealed genes that are common to both language and music rhythm abilities, offering new insights into the biological basis shared between these human traits.

Published in the journal Nature Human Behaviour, the study found that sixteen regions of the human genome-- the complete DNA sequence of a person-- are shared by both rhythm and language.

Researchers, including those from Vanderbilt University in the US, indicated that genetic variants in these regions could affect gene expression in brain cells.

Information in one's genes translate into observable behaviour and traits via gene expression.

The datasets used for analysis included those obtained from 23andMe, a US-based genomics and biotechnology company, which involved more than a million individuals.

The researchers found that genetic variants known to increase the risk of impairments in rhythm processing were also associated with a higher likelihood of dyslexia, a learning disability that affects reading, writing, and spelling.

"The results revealed 16 pleiotropic loci (locations of genes on chromosomes) jointly associated with rhythm impairment and dyslexia, highlighting intricate shared genetic and neurobiological architectures," the authors wrote. Pleiotropy is a phenomenon, in which a gene variant is responsible for multiple traits simultaneously.

The study also found that the reverse was also true: genetic variants linked to more accurate rhythm skills were associated with better performance on language and reading tests, such as higher grades in foreign language classes.

The results suggest a "complex genetic and neurobiological architecture" shared by musical rhythm and the capacity for learning and maintaining human language, said senior author Reyna Gordon, an associate professor at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

—PTI

All you need to know about...

Acne hacks

What causes acne?
To figure out how to get rid of acne at home, we must first understand what causes acne. Acne can be caused by a number of things, such as stress, poor eating and sleeping habits, hormonal imbalance, acne-causing bacteria, pollution, and so much more. It's hard to avoid all of these things, and in turn, avoid getting acne at all. Prevention might be better than cure, but it doesn't always work.

How can I clear up acne fast?
To clear up acne fast, you need to detox your skin from the inside. Drinking at least 12 glasses of water is extremely beneficial to flush out toxins from your body. Besides, try one or more of the above-mentioned recipes and we are sure you will see results sooner than you expect!

What kills acne on the skin?
Acne is caused by bacteria that feed off the sebum or oil on our skin. Ingredients that kill these bacteria help clear acne. Anti-bacterial ingredients like aloe vera, neem, turmeric, honey, and tea tree oil can be used to kill off acne-causing bacteria.

Is toothpaste good for acne?
Using toothpaste to cure pimples and acne is not a smart idea. Although toothpaste includes components that keep the mouth clean and prevent dental illness, this does not imply that it will also help the skin. Toothpaste's ingredients can irritate the skin, causing dryness and stimulating the oil glands of the face. Excessive oil production may result in new or worsened acne outbreaks.

Does vitamin C help with acne?
Vitamin C has anti-inflammatory qualities, which aid in the reduction of acne-related redness and swelling. When the vitamin is used topically, the effects are more prominent.

—Sukriti Shahi, Femina

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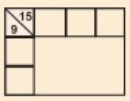
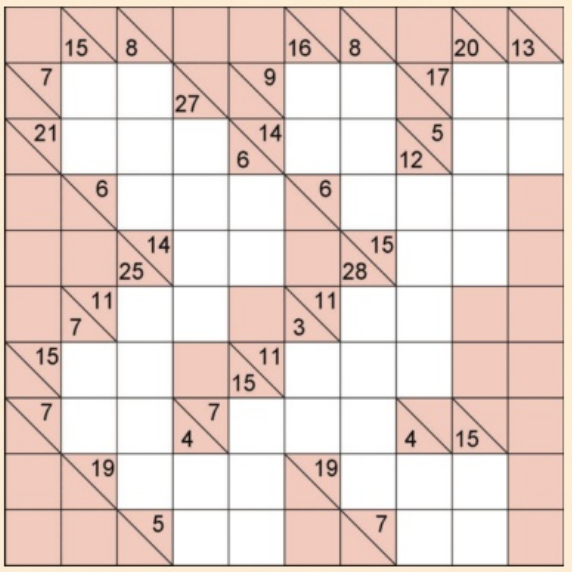
Kakuro

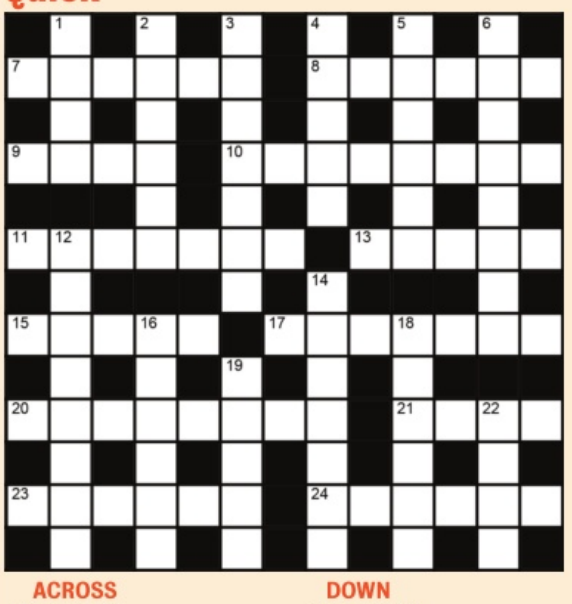
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Wound (6)
8 Malay skirt (6)
9 Hum a tune (4)
10 Hurricanes (8)
11 Featured in the lead role? (7)
13 Collectively (2,3)
15 Military unit (5)
17 Importance or seriousness (7)
20 Try harder (4,4)
21 Least amount (4)
23 Lets in (6)
24 Fashionable or stylish (6)

DOWN

1 Against (4)
2 Working boat (6)
3 Executed without a trial (7)
4 Mentally prepare (5)
5 Dwells on (6)
6 World wide web (8)
12 They are proverbially better than one (3,5)
14 One of two metro stations in the Ulsoor area (7)
16 Allow (6)
18 Expresses or verbalizes (6)
19 Looped rope (5)
22 Neat (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS G

GZWAMGPTZGG MG TYE WMNMTL JG YTZ FMGPZG EY WMNZ, ME MG JGBMTL YEP-ZCG EY WMNZ JG YTZ FMGPZG EY WMNZ.

Linemaro

You auto-complete me

Mindchow

Never complain about what your parents couldn't give you. It was probably all they had

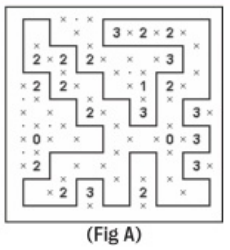
Joke of the day

Why did the giant ape climb the back of the skyscraper? Because the lift was broken

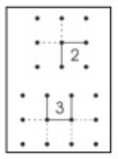
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

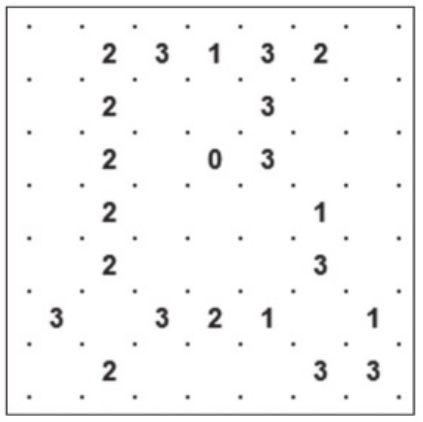


(Fig B) Not Allowed

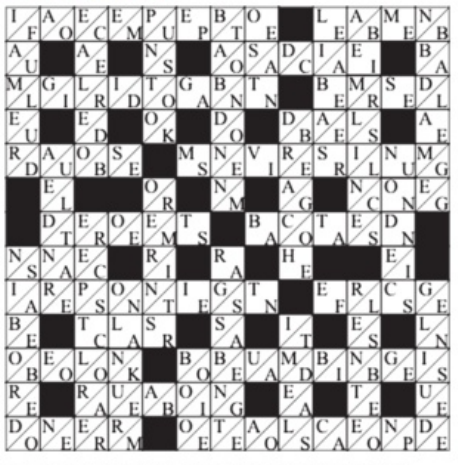
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



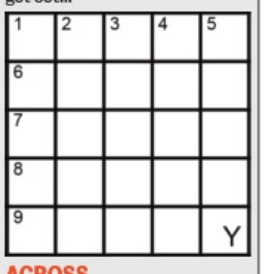
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Skits; 6 A halo; 7 Abbes; 8 Morse; 9 RY MBA

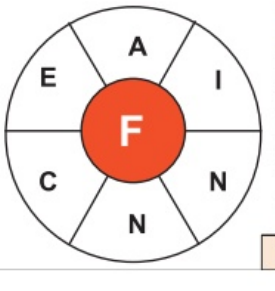
DOWN

1 OK Bab; 2 Lamia; 3 Robes; 4 R them; 5 Says S

Mensapuzzle

Which of the letters below is missing from the bottom circle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

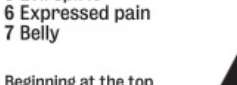
SudokuChallenge

		4				3		
2								7
		3	5	8	4	1		
	5	2	4		7	8	3	
7								6
	9	8	1		6	2	7	
		5	9	3	1	7		
8								3
		7				4		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



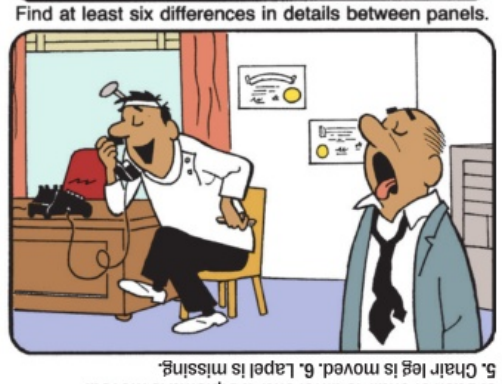
Easy: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 2
3 3 4 8

Medium: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 1
1 2 2 3

Hard: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 52
6 9 9 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Blinds are higher. 3. Back of chair is different. 4. Diploma is moved. 5. Chair leg is moved. 6. Lapel is missing.

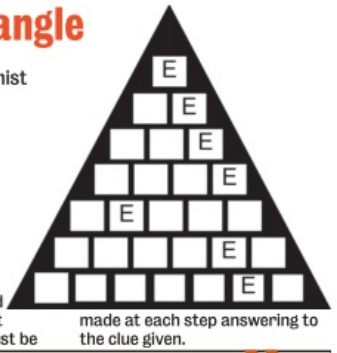
Riddler

In this teaser you place a small word in "de...ed" to produce a new word. The letters are inserted in order, as a whole.

1. Face the ball, indeed! He just had a war of words.
2. Not able to, indeed! It was poured out without disturbing the sediment.
3. Short, indeed; but thoroughly cross-examined.

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 Neon for the chemist
3 Single
4 Over
5 Evil spirit
6 Expressed pain
7 Belly

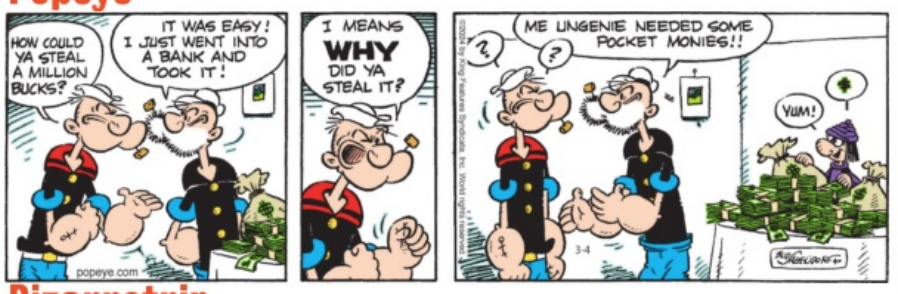


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


HOW COULD YA STEAL A MILLION BUCKS?
IT WAS EASY! I JUST WENT INTO A BANK AND TOOK IT!
I MEANS WHY DID YA STEAL IT?
ME UNGENIE NEEDED SOME POCKET MONIES!!
YUM!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

YOU KNOW, THE IDEA TO DO A DISNEY MEDLEY FOR THE TALENT SHOW ISN'T BAD. THERE'S A BUNCH OF MEDLEYS ON VIEWTUBE, SO THERE'S A MARKET!
OOOH, AND MAYBE YOU CAN WEAR SOME COSTUMES AND DO A QUICK-CHANGE.
LEE, YOU'RE A VISIONARY, AND MY NEW STYLIST. YOU'RE THE LAW ROACH TO MY ZENDAYA.
HART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OOCMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

IT WAS AFTER I GOT HOME FROM NEW YORK THAT I STARTED DOING A COMIC STRIP FOR A LOCAL PAPER.
PIZZA
I'M AFRAID THAT STORY IS GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER DAY.
NO WORRIES... AS LONG AS MONTONI'S HAS PIZZAS!
8-24
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

NO, MR. MOOCH— I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'LL FINISH MY ARK.
SURE, SHTINKY, A PROJECT OF SUCH SIZE AND SCOPE MUST BE A MAJOR UNDERTAKING!
I KNOW...
PLUS I ONLY HAVE THREE NAILS.
www.kingfeatures.com
mutts.com
8-24

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today brings positivity and good news, especially from siblings. Spiritual energy will guide you in making the right decisions, while your focus on goals becomes sharper. Students are likely to excel in their studies. Job seekers may find promising opportunities.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You might feel low and face health-related concerns today. Standing at crossroads may create confusion; you must trust your intuition while making significant decisions. It's advised to drive safely and avoid adventurous activities. Self-criticism might lower your confidence, potentially affecting your social image.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is favourable for gains, with results coming effortlessly. Losses may turn into profits through your intelligence. You may engage in academics or donate to charities and religious places. Investing in intellectual assets is possible, and students are set to perform well.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Your professional performance shines today, earning you the support of your boss or seniors. New opportunities or even a job offer may come your way. Job seekers will likely find suitable positions. Singles might meet someone special at the workplace.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Luck is on your side today, boosting your confidence. You may plan a visit to a spiritual place or contribute to charity. A short business trip is also on the cards. Blessings from elders will provide peace of mind, and lovebirds may receive family support for marriage plans.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, health issues might slow you down, affecting your daily routine. You may introspect to identify and overcome your weaknesses. A sense of isolation could linger even in a crowd, but with elders' support, you'll overcome this by the evening.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is productive for business. New orders and partnerships may bring future profits. You'll introduce fresh ideas at work, but the mental strain might affect your domestic life. Strive for a balance to maintain harmony at home.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Your job performance stands out today, with cooperation from colleagues helping you complete postponed projects. You may consider taking a loan for investment purposes. Job seekers will likely secure new positions. Health improvements bring positive news for those with chronic issues.

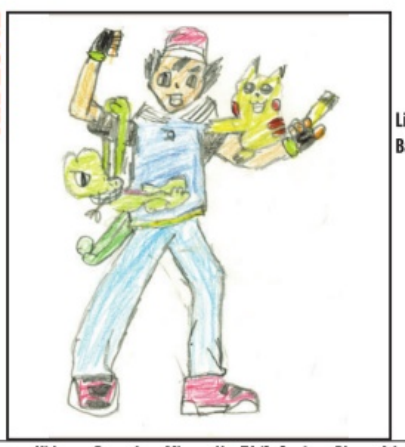
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is somewhat good for you. Things are settling down, and those around you may respond more positively now. It is advised that you avoid viewing life as a burden and stay resilient in challenging situations. Elderly blessings will help resolve lingering confusion and bring clarity to your goals.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Incomplete tasks and mood swings may test your patience today. Avoiding silly mistakes will help you stay focused. Lovebirds might feel uncertain about their emotions, while high expectations could strain spousal relationships. You are advised to pay attention to your parents' well-being. Students may struggle to concentrate.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, with your subordinates' help, you'll complete postponed projects. Networking improves, positively impacting your work and social life. An outing with friends or siblings may lift your spirits. Disputes with neighbours are likely to be resolved. Students are advised to tackle laziness and carelessness.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, family expenses may strain your finances. It is advised to avoid spending on unnecessary items and think twice before making any decisions. Controlling your straightforward nature will help maintain harmony in your personal and professional life

KIDZONE



Likith
Bangalore

Ramya
Murthy,
Bangalore

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$(\sqrt{(5^2 \times 3)} - \sqrt{(4^2 \times 3)})^2$
$(\sqrt{5^2 \times}/3 - \sqrt{4^2 \times}/3)^2$
$(5/3 - 4/3)^2$
$(\sqrt{3})^2$
$(3^{-1}/2)^2$
$3^{(2/2)}$
3!

BULL'S EYE
café, face, FINANCE, fine

STRIKE OUT

F	A	C	E	U	P	T	O	L	A	M	B			
U	A	N	A	S	C	I	I	A						
M	I	L	I	T	A	N	T	B	R	E	D			
E	E	O	D	B	E	L	E							
D	A	B	S	S	E	V	E	R	I	N	G			
L	R	M	A	N	O	G								
T	R	E	E	S	A	C	T	E	D					
N	A	E	I	A	H	E								
A	R	S	O	N	I	S	T	E	L	S	E			
B	T	A	S	S	I	E	N							
B	O	O	K	B	E	A	D	I	N	G	S			
E	R	U	B	I	N	E	T	U						
A	D	M	I	T	S	T	R	E	N	D	Y			
S	T	A	R	R	E	D	A	S	O	N	E			
C	O	R	P	S	G	R	A	V	I	T	Y			
H	E	N	I	O										
W		D	T	E										
B	E	A	R	D	O	W	N	I	O	T	A			
A	M	O	I	C	I									
I	N	J	U	R	Y	S	A	R	O	N	G			
T	G	N	Y	O	T									
S	I	N	G	C	Y	C	L	O	N	E	S			
E	H	H	D	R										

FAST FIVE

K	I	S	T	S
A	L	O	H	A
B	A	B	E	S
O	M	E	R	S
B	A	R	M	Y

QUOTE UNCODE
Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live, it is asking others to live as one wishes to live.

QUICK

A	L	L		P	B	I								
I	N	J	U	R	Y		S	A	R	O	N	G		
T	G		N		Y	O		T						
S	I	N	G		C	Y	C	L	O	N	E	S		
E		H		H		D		R						
S	T	A	R	R	E	D		A	S	O	N	E		
C	O	R	P	S		G	R	A	V	I	T	Y		
W			D		T			E						
B	E	A	R	D	O	W	N		I	O	T	A		
A	M		O		I	C		I						
I	N	J	U	R	Y		S	A	R	O	N	G		
T	G		N		Y	O		T						
S	I	N	G		C	Y	C	L	O	N	E	S		
E		H		H		D		R						
S	T	A	R	R	E	D		A	S	O	N	E		
C	O	R	P	S		G	R	A	V	I	T	Y		
H	E	N	I	O										
W		D	T	E										
B	E	A	R	D	O	W	N		I	O	T	A		
A	M	O	I	C	I									
I	N	J	U	R	Y	S	A	R	O	N	G			
T	G	N	Y	O	T									
S	I	N	G	C	Y	C	L	O	N	E	S			
E	H	H	D	R										
S	T	E	Y	S										

RIDDLER
1. deBATed,
2. deCANTed &
3. deBRIEFed

MENSA PUZZLE
E. Start at the top of the diagram, and work through each row from left to right. Letters move through the alphabet, in steps of 3 letters, then 4, 5 and 6, repeating this sequence

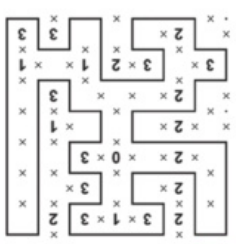
SUDOKU

5	1	4	6	7	2	8	9	3
2	8	6	3	1	9	5	4	7
9	7	3	5	8	4	1	6	2
6	5	2	4	9	7	8	3	1
7	4	1	8	2	3	9	5	6
3	9	8	1	5	6	2	7	4
4	6	5	9	3	1	7	2	8
8	2	9	7	4	5	6	1	3
1	3	7	2	6	8	9	4	5

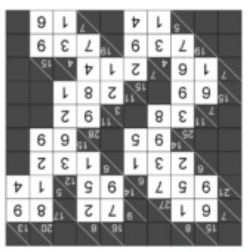
ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, No, One, Done, Demon, Moaned, Abdomen.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 − 8 + 3 + 4 = 2
Medium
3 − 2 x 2 − 1 = 1
Hard
6 x 9 − 9 + 7 = 52

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Golden Peacock to Toxic
Lithuanian film 'Toxic' directed by Saule Bliuvaite, won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the IFFI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Ekka shoot begins

The muhurat function of Ekka was conducted at Bande Mahakali Temple, Gavipura Guttahalli in the city on Thursday. Rohit Padaki, who earned fame for handling the megaphone for Ratnan Prapancha, is helming Ekka.

"The movie is about a middle class family that migrates to Bengaluru and how the city treats the family and what the city expects from it. I have opted for Yuva Rajkumar because he is a middle-class youthful hero. I have watched the movie Yuva and feel Yuva Rajkumar is the perfect choice to play the lead in Ekka," said Padaki.

The director said the three-day schedule of the movie shoot begins in Bengaluru on Thursday. "The next schedule will begin after a week. As per the script, we are planning to shoot it in Kashmir, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, and at a village near Mysuru. The total shooting would be for 80 to 85 days," he said.

Yogaraj's new movie

Director Yogaraj Bhat and producer E Krishnappa have teamed up for Manada Kadalu after a gap of 18 years. Prior to this, Yogaraj Bhat directed Mungaru Male that was released in 2006. Shooting of Manada Kadalu is in progress at Bengaluru Palace.

Sumuka is playing the lead while Rasika Shetty and Anjali Anish are paired opposite him. Rangayana Raghu is playing an important character in the movie.

"I wanted to direct one more movie after Mungaru Male but could not do so as producer E Krishnappa was busy with politics and I was busy with other movies. Later, we decided to join hands to make a movie after the lockdown. The producer wanted to make the movie with newcomers. Sumuka was selected as the hero. The shooting of the movie was held in 12 districts of Karnataka and at Murud-Janjira Fort in Maharashtra. We struggled to get permission for the shooting at the Fort. Most of the shooting is completed," said Bhat, adding that Rangayana Raghu plays an adivasi in the film.

Krishnappa said that he gives importance to good content. "My objective is to select good content and bankroll the movie that has the potential to be appreciated by all," said Krishnappa.

Aish bats for change

A recent video of the Bollywood icon Aishwarya Rai Bachchan emphasizing the need for change, equality, and opportunities for women is now making the rounds on social media for all the right reasons.

Making a rare public appearance amid the divorce rumors, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, in the viral video, is seen sharing insights into the need for women's empowerment. The 'Ponniyin Selvan' actress delivered an inspiring speech at the Global Women's Forum which was held in Dubai recently.

"This summit is a shining example of what can be achieved when voices from diverse backgrounds come together with a shared purpose to inspire change, foster equality, and create opportunities for women worldwide," shared the actress.

Clad in stunning blue attire, Aishwarya looked gorgeous as usual. She further said, "This gathering is more than just an event. It is a legacy of empowerment. It's an honor and absolute privilege to be here at the Global Women's Forum in Dubai 2024" Netizens are pouring love for the Bollywood diva. —ETimes

WHAT HAPPENS BTS?

PC shares glimpses from sets of Citadel

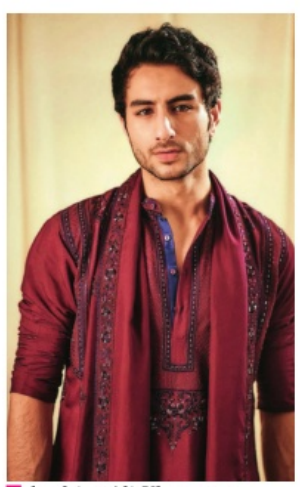
Priyanka Chopra Jonas is currently shooting for 'Citadel' season 2. The actress looked fit and fabulous as she dropped a mirror selfie from the sets in a track pants and tank top avatar. Priyanka treats her fans with her BTS moments from the sets and also some cherished personal moments with husband Nick Jonas and Malti Marie, which everyone waits for.

Priyanka dropped a selfie from the sets as she flaunts her navel piercing and fit action avatar. Later, she dropped a video where she shows how cold it is on the set. As she drove to her shoot, the temperature was minus 2 degree Celsius but by the time she reached the set, the temperature further dropped to minus 1 degree. Later, she also gave a view of the set, from outside her window where one could only see a lot of fog. She expressed that while the view is beautiful with so much fog, it's also very cold.

The actress has begun shooting for season 2 of 'Citadel' recently as the Indian version of the series released in November. It starred Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Varun Dhawan. Meanwhile, PC recently dropped a poster of 'Citadel' and revealed that she got on board for this spy-thriller even before she married Nick. She had expressed, "I was brought onto the journey of Citadel early 2018 by @jennifersalke , before I was even married. Feels like so long ago! But I'll never forget being mesmerized by the ambition of the show. To actually connect the world together through storytelling. Now, to finally see the world of Citadel, expanding as originally. conceptualized so many years ago, is so gratifying. To have such talented filmmakers from around the world create stories that are global but also local and at the same time interconnected, is very cool.. I'm so grateful to be on this journey with all the incredible cast and crew from around the world.. there's too much more to come."

Before 'Citadel', Priyanka wrapped up shooting for a project called 'The Bluff'. —ETimes

IAK's touching move



Ibrahim Ali Khan, son of Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan, hilariously touched the feet of photographers after he walked out of the gym Ibrahim, who was dressed in a grey oversized jacket paired with shorts, made his way out of the gym and was going to the car, when shutterbugs followed him and asked the brother of actress Sara Ali Khan to turn around for the camera.

Ibrahim is then seen keeping his stuff in the car and then touching the feet of the paparazzis and is heard saying "thank you thank you". He then rushed into the car. In other news, it was reported that Ibrahim joined actress Palak Tiwari, whom he is reportedly dating, in Maldives for a holiday. Ibrahim is set to make his acting debut with the film titled Sarzameen. It will be an emotional thriller with Ibrahim playing a pivotal role.

The film went on floors in 2023. The film also stars Kajol, who is paired opposite Prithviraj. Talking about his sister Sara, recently a video of a random elderly man protecting the actress from the paparazzis went viral on social media. As paparazzi gathered to capture her pictures, an elderly man stepped forward to shield her from the cameras.

The man went to great lengths, even snatching camera phones from the paparazzi and blocking their angles, leaving everyone, including Sara, completely baffled. The actress then made her way to the salon. —IANS

Tom in Farah's film?

Farah Khan has recently expressed her desire to work with Hollywood star Tom Cruise.

The director made her wish known when she commented on a post shared by Cruise, which featured a behind-the-scenes picture from his upcoming film, "Mission: Impossible—The Final Reckoning." Tom took to Instagram to share a photo that showed him training for underwater stunts.

In response, Farah Khan commented, "TOMMMMMMMMM... waiting to work with you," followed by a heart and a folded hands emoji.

The Hollywood actor captioned the post, "The training and preparation we put into this film is a culmination of all before it. From the depths, to the skies, I can't wait to share more with you."

In the BTS image, Tom could be seen taking a breather from his trainer's oxygen tank while submerged underwater, with a large light glowing in the background. The makers of "Mission: Impossible—The Final Reckoning" also treated fans to a video, offering a glimpse of Cruise preparing for his intense underwater stunts." —IANS